

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for managing a communications line associated with a plurality of users of a communications network, comprising:

receiving first user line management information, for a first user of the communications line, specifying [[a]] first preferences of the first user for communicating with contacts of the first user included handling of calls received on the communications line for contacts in a first address book ~~associated with the first user,~~ wherein the first preferences identify the contacts of the first user and corresponding procedures for handling calls between the first user and the contacts of the first user;

receiving second user line management information, for a second user of the communications line, specifying [[a]] second preferences of the second user for communicating with contacts of the second user included handling of calls received on the communications line for contacts in a second address book distinct from the first address book ~~and associated with the second user,~~ wherein the second preferences identify the contacts of the second user and corresponding procedures for handling calls between the second user and the contacts of the second user;

receiving, from the communications network, information regarding a call directed to the communications line;

determining a handling procedure for the call based on the received first and second user line management information; and

transmitting₁ to the communications network₁ instructions regarding the determined handling procedure, such that the communications network handles the call in accordance with the determined handling procedure.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving from the communications network information regarding a call received on the communications line includes receiving information from a service control point providing services to a switch associated with the communications line.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving from the communications network information regarding a call includes receiving information identifying an origination of the call; and

wherein determining a handling procedure includes determining a handling procedure based on the information identifying the origination of the call.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding forwarding calls to a different communications line.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding handling calls based on the time the call is received.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding forwarding calls to one or more processors providing voice mail services.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding forwarding calls to at least one processor for playing an audible signal indicating unavailability of the communications line.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving first user line management information includes receiving a request to forward a notification regarding a call to a first device associated with the first user.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
receiving, in response to the notification, an instruction regarding handling of the call; and

wherein the determined handling procedure is based on the received instruction.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding a first handling procedure, information regarding a secondary handling procedure, and information useful for determining whether to apply the primary or secondary handling procedure; and

wherein determining a handling procedure of the call includes determining whether to handle the call using the primary or secondary handling procedure.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding handling of calls based upon information regarding a location of the first or second user.

12. (Currently amended) A system for managing a communications line associated with a plurality of users, comprising:

a first interface for connecting to a data network;

a second interface for connecting to a communications network including at least one processor configured to perform operations comprising ~~capable of:~~

receiving first user line management information, for a first user of the communications line, specifying [[a]] first preferences of the first user for communicating with contacts of the first user included ~~handling of calls received on the communications line for contacts~~ in a first address book associated with ~~the first user, wherein the first preferences identify the contacts of the first user and corresponding procedures for handling calls between the first user and the~~ contacts of the first user;

receiving second user line management information, for a second user of the communications line, specifying [[a]] second preferences of the second user for communicating with contacts of the second user included ~~handling of calls received on the communications line for contacts~~ in a second

address book distinct from the first address book ~~and associated with the second user, wherein the second preferences identify the contacts of the second user and corresponding procedures for handling calls between the second user and the contacts of the second user;~~

receiving₁ from the communications network₁ information regarding a call directed to the communications line₁[[,]]

determining a handling procedure for the call based on the received first and second user line management information;[[,]] and

transmitting₁ to the communications network₁ instructions regarding the determined handling procedure for the call, such that the communications network handles the call in accordance with the determined handling procedure.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to receive ~~set of processors are capable of receiving~~ information from a service control point providing services to a switch associated with the communications line.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to receive ~~set of processors are capable of receiving~~ from the communications network information identifying an origination of the call, and determining the handling procedure based on the information identifying the origination of the call.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to receive ~~set of processors are capable of receiving~~ line management information including information regarding forwarding calls to a different communications line.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to receive ~~set of processors are capable of receiving~~ line management information including information regarding handling calls based on when the call is received.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to receive ~~set of processors are capable of receiving~~ line management information including information regarding forwarding calls to one or more processors providing voice mail services.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to receive ~~set of processors are capable of receiving~~ line management information including information regarding forwarding calls to one or more processors for playing an audible signal indicating unavailability of the communications line.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to receive ~~set of processors are capable of receiving~~ first

user line management information including a request to forward a notification regarding a call to a first device associated with the first user.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to receive ~~set of processors are capable of receiving~~, in response to the notification, an instruction regarding handling of the call, and determining the handling procedure based on the received instruction.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein
the at least one processor is further configured to receive ~~set of processors are capable of receiving~~ line management information including information regarding a first handling procedure, information regarding a secondary handling procedure, and information useful for determining whether to apply the primary or secondary handling procedure, and

in determining a handling procedure of the call, the at least one processor is further configured to determine ~~set of processors are capable of determining~~ whether to handle the call using the primary or secondary handling procedure.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to receive ~~set of processors are capable of receiving~~ information regarding a location of the first or second user and receiving line management information including information regarding handling of calls based upon the information regarding a location of the first or second user.

23. (Currently amended) A system for managing a communications line associated with a plurality of users of a communications network, comprising:

means for receiving first user line management information, for a first user of the communications line, specifying [[a]] first preferences of the first user for communicating with contacts of the first user included handling of calls received on the communications line for contacts in a first address book ~~associated with the first user, wherein the first preferences identify the contacts of the first user and corresponding procedures for handling calls between the first user and the contacts of the first user;~~

means for receiving second user line management information, for a second user of the communications line, specifying [[a]] second preferences of the second user for communicating with contacts of the second user included handling of calls received on the communications line for contacts in a second address book ~~distinct from the first address book and associated with the second user, wherein the second preferences identify the contacts of the second user and corresponding procedures for handling calls between the second user and the contacts of the second user;~~

means for receiving, from the communications network, information regarding a call directed to the communications line;

means for determining a handling procedure of the call based on the received first and second user line management information; and

means for transmitting, to the communications network, instructions regarding the handling procedure, such that the communications network handles the call in accordance with the determined handling procedure.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the means for receiving from the communications network information regarding a call includes means for receiving information from a service control point providing services to a switch associated with the communications line.

25. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein:
the means for receiving from the communications network information regarding a call includes means for receiving information identifying an origination of the call; and

the means for determining handling of the call includes means for determining the handling based on the information identifying the origination of the call.

26. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the received line management information includes information regarding forwarding calls to a different communications line.

27. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the received line management information includes information regarding handling calls based on when the call is received.

28. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the received line management information includes information regarding forwarding calls to one or more processors providing voice mail services.

29. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the received line management information includes information regarding forwarding calls to one or more processors for playing an audible signal indicative of the communications line being unavailable.

30. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the first user received line management information includes a request to forward a notification regarding a call to a first device associated with the first user.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, further comprising means for receiving, in response to the notification, an instruction regarding handling of the call; and
wherein the determined handling is based on the received instruction.

32. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the first user received line management information includes information regarding a first handling procedure, information regarding a secondary handling procedure, and information useful for determining whether to apply the primary or secondary handling procedure; and
wherein the determined handling is based on the primary or secondary handling procedure.

33. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the first user received line management information includes information regarding handling of calls based upon information regarding a location of the first or second user.

34. (Currently amended) A system for managing a communications line associated with a plurality of users of a communications network, comprising:

a switch for receiving calls directed to the communications line and generating a trigger in response to receiving a call directed to the communications line;

a service control point for receiving the trigger and transmitting information regarding an origination of the call;

a storage device storing:

a first disposition list specifying first preferences of a first user for communicating with contacts of the first user included ~~a first handling of received calls for one or more contacts~~ in a first address book, wherein the first preferences identify the contacts of the first user and corresponding procedures for handling calls between the first user and the contacts of the first user; for a first user of the communications line; and

a second disposition list specifying second preferences of a second user for communicating with contacts of the second user included ~~a second handling of received calls for one or more contacts~~ in a second address book~~[[,]]~~ distinct from the first address book, ~~for a second user of the communications line~~ wherein the second preferences identify the contacts of the second user and

corresponding procedures for handling calls between the second user and the contacts of the second user;

a set of processors connected to a data network and the communications network, the set of processors configured to perform operations comprising ~~capable of:~~

receiving₁ from the service control point₁ the information regarding the origination of the call;[[,]]

determining₁ based on the first disposition list or the second disposition list[[,]] and the information regarding the origination of the call, a handling procedure for the call;[[,]] and

transmitting an instruction to the service control point to handle the call in accordance with the determined handling procedure; and

a user device connected to the data network, the user device being configured to transmit ~~capable of transmitting~~ information to the set of processors regarding handling of calls directed to the communications line originating from a contact in the first address book or in the second address book₁ such that the information regarding handling of the call from the contact is stored in the first disposition list or in the second disposition list.

35. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first user establishes the first preferences by selecting one or more of contacts of the first user in the first address book by name, and specifying the procedures for the selected contacts in advance of receiving the call directed to the communications line.